

There is still time to apply for street party road closures

By Helen Draycott
News Reporter

RESIDENTS in Pheasey looking to celebrate next month's royal wedding in style are being given a helping hand after Walsall Council decided to extend the deadline for revellers to get their street party applications in.

So far, only three applications have been made to the council by residents looking to dig out the bunting to see Prince William and his bride-to-be Kate Middleton tie the knot on April 29.

Now council bosses have extended the deadline for applications until April 13 in the hope of spreading the party atmosphere.

Chris Holliday, Walsall Council's head of leisure and community health, said: "Street parties are a perfect way for residents to mark what will be a momentous event and that's why we want to make organising a party with a group of neighbours as trouble

free as possible

"It's their street and it's their party.

"We want to do all we can to ensure people take responsibility for making these events happen, without unnecessary red tape getting in the way."

As well as the three applications already given the go-ahead for the necessary street closures to be arranged, a further two applications are currently being considered.

Once road closures have been approved, the council will allow residents to organise their event on their own, including making sure roads will be closed off safely to traffic while the party is taking place.

All applications must be in by Wednesday, April 13. Council bosses say they will do all they can to accommodate as many gatherings as possible.

Residents with any queries can find a brief guide to organising a street party on the council's website at www.walsall.gov.uk



We are determined our students leave as confident people

THE sky's the limit at NBA. We have a very clear vision. We are determined that our students succeed and leave us as confident, articulate and aspirational young people, fully prepared for life and work in the 21st century.

With this in mind, we started 2011 with a strong focus on supporting and challenging our students to develop their English and literacy skills which are absolutely essential for their future education and employment goals.

Our English department has developed an innovative rolling programme of key words and challenging vocabulary which are displayed prominently on LCD screens throughout the Academy.

The words have been carefully selected to encourage students to use more mature and analytical language in their spoken vocabulary and also in their written assessments and exams.

The new Academy website now also features lots of information and advice for parents on how they can support their children with literacy.

We are confident that this will have a positive impact on our students' results across all subject areas. Meanwhile, the introduction of Kindle E readers for our Year 11s is



Left: West Midlands Police were one of many organisations to get involved in the careers day at North Birmingham Academy.

bringing books and technology together in a fun way for students.

This initiative is part of our drive to raise the profile and love of reading across the Academy and fits perfectly with our specialism in English.

In another corner of the Academy, our determination to ensure our students achieve success took the shape of our annual Aspirations Day.

Representatives from a broad range of companies and organisations including, Pinsent Masons LLP, Ernst and Young, MADE (an architecture and built environment specialist), the *Observer* and the Royal Navy

visited the Academy.

At the careers fair style event, Year 9s soaked up professional advice about launching their careers and making the right subject choices for their futures.

More recently, over 145 students aged ten and 11, due to start their secondary education at North Birmingham Academy in September 2011, attended a friendship morning to meet new friends and teachers. The event, which is part of our extensive transition programme, included the opportunity to release over 100 tagged balloons into the sky.

The new students will definitely aspire to the

Academy's motto of 'The Sky's the Limit' as they prepare for their education in the Academy's brand new building which, subject to planning permission, we anticipate will be completed in the 2012/13 school year. Since confirmation of the £23.6 million investment in August 2010, rapid progress has been made in developing the building designs and we are now deciding on the finer details. The new buildings will further support us in achieving our aim of becoming one of the best educational establishments in Birmingham, based at the heart of our community, offering high quality, rigorous education for all.

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